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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

Iraq

DATE DISTR.

1 December 1948

SUBJECT

Iraqi Purchases of Ammunition from European Countries and Turkey

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

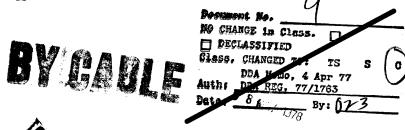
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SUPPLEMENT REPORT NO.

Return to CIA Library DATE OF JI

Brigadier Sami Fattah, Commanding Officer of the Iraqi Air Force,

- Major Muhsin Habib, and Tawfiq Hakim, who have been attempting to purchase military equipment in Europe, have completed negotiations with an unspecified European firm for the purchase of fifteen planes (type not given), at a cost of L 25,000 per plane, with payment to be made in sterling. Shakir Wadi, Iraqi Minister of Defense, approved Fattah's purchase by wire without full sanction of the Iraqi Cabinet, inasmuch as Fattah was forced to receive the authority of the Iraqi Government by 28 October.
- 2. The Palestine truce prevented the delivery of ammunition for twelve Sea Furies which Britain had sold to Iraq. The Iraqis, who, therefore, have been attempting to get ammunition elsewhere, obtained 26,000 rounds of 20 mm. ammunition from Egypt, 6,000 rounds of which have been delivered in Baghdad as a present from King Faruq. Delivery was expected to be completed by the end of October.
- 3. In early October, Colonel Qadin Abadi of the Iraqi Air Force, and Captain Nadir Husayn of the Iraqi Ordnance Corps, visited Turkey and are believed to have obtained a quantity of 1,000-pound bombs and bomb carriers suitable for Sea Furies, which can carry a total bomb load of 2,000 pounds each.
- 4. Since the Palestine truce will probably necessitate smuggling the abovementioned bombs and bomb carriers from Turkey to Iraq, this arms purchase in Turkey may have some relation to the Baghdad visit of Satfet Lutfi Tozan from 11 to 13 October, source claims. Tozan, a Turkish citizen who resides in Istanbul at 75 Tesyikiyo, is reliably described as a large-scale international arms smuggler.



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